



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Linda J. Blessing, Ph.D.
Interim Director

February 17, 2009

Dear RSA Partner:

Recent economic circumstances on both national and state levels have led us to conclude that Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) will not have sufficient resources to serve all individuals eligible for the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

When such a situation arises, Federal law provides for the implementation of an Order of Selection (OOS). The Order of Selection consists of priority categories to which eligible individuals are assigned based on the significance of their disability.

Effective March 16, 2009, Arizona RSA intends to close all priority categories. All individuals in a closed category will be placed on a waiting list and will be contacted on a 6 month basis.

The following are key concepts:

- There are three categories within the OOS:
 - those with the most significant impairments,
 - those with significant impairments and all other individuals with disabilities who are eligible under the eligibility criteria.
- The process is designed to insure that those with the most significant impairments receive the top priority in service.
- The process is also designed to insure that the rehabilitation plans that are put into place remain comprehensive and complete.

State VR agencies implementing an Order of Selection must:

- Implement the order of selection on a statewide basis
- Notify all eligible individuals of the priority categories in a state's order of selection,
 - their assignment to a particular priority category, and
 - their right to appeal this assignment

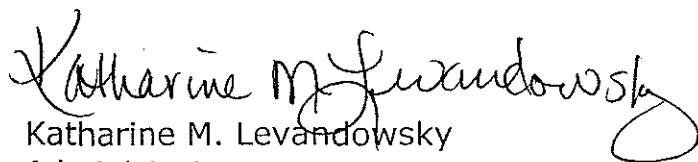
- Continue to provide all needed services to any eligible individual who has begun to receive services under an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) prior to the effective date of the order of selection, irrespective of the severity of the individual's disability.
- Ensure that its funding arrangements for providing services under the state plan, including third-party arrangements and awards under the establishment authority are consistent with the order of selection; and
- Ensure that individuals who do not meet the Order of Selection criteria will have access to services provided through the information and referral system.

If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding the Order of Selection, please contact any of the individuals listed below.

RSA District 1	Michael Scione, Program Mgr.	602-266-6752
RSA District 2	Joyce Choate, Program Mgr.	520-628-6810
RSA District 3	Phil Clayton, Program Mgr.	928-637-7960
RSA District 4	Darryl Long, Program Mgr.	928-247-8880
RSA District 5 & 6	Brent Emery, Program Mgr.	928-428-7700
RSA Central Office	Ileen Herberg, Manager	602-542-1228

During this difficult time, RSA appreciates your continued support and commitment to the individuals we serve.

Sincerely,



Katharine M. Levandowsky
Administrator
Rehabilitation Services Administration